

# We believe...

THE CREED OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH

**MAY 2020**

**Session 1: Apostles & Ministry**

**Session 2: Holy Baptism**

**Session 3: Holy Sealing**



**Facilitators:** Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email [communications@nac-usa.org](mailto:communications@nac-usa.org).

If you have participants in your small group that do not attend the New Apostolic Church, please encourage them to bring their Catechism or statement of beliefs to add to the discussion.

**2020 May**  
**MIDWEEK GUIDE**

**Session 1: The Creed: Apostles & Ministry**

1. Describe the connection between Jesus Christ and the ministries of the church. Why is it vital that this connection remains intact?

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2. The video said, "The apostles labor to prepare believers for the return of Jesus Christ by helping them to grow into the nature of their Savior and encouraging them to overcome the sinful nature that tries to keep them tied to their old self." How have you been encouraged to overcome your sinful nature? How are you supported as you grow into the nature of Jesus Christ?

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3. How does preaching the gospel, dispensing the sacraments, and making redemption in Jesus known build up the church?

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4. What is the Church's role in making the gospel of Christ known to all?

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5. Jesus gave the Great Commission to the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20). How can we support them in fulfilling this commission?

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6. How can you show appreciation for your ministers? Discuss with your group and come up with a plan to do it!

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7. What is your response to the beliefs stated in the fourth and fifth Articles of Faith?

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Close your session by praying together for your apostles and ministers.

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### **Bible References**

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1 Corinthians 4:1

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### **Fourth Article of Faith**

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I believe that the Lord Jesus rules His church and thereto sent His Apostles, and until His return still sends them, with the commission to teach, to forgive sins in His name, and to baptize with water and Holy Spirit.

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### **Fifth Article of Faith**

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I believe that those designated by God for a ministry are ordained only by Apostles, and that authority, blessing, and sanctification for their ministrations come forth out of the apostle ministry.

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## **Session 2: The Creed: Holy Baptism**

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1. How have you felt the effects of Holy Baptism in your life? Do you feel that God is renewing you, through the Holy Spirit, to be the person He created you to be?

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2. Read Romans 5:18-19 together. What do these verses mean to you? How do they connect to Holy Baptism?

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3. How do you show your daily commitment to being a disciple of Jesus?

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4. After reading and reflecting on Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*, describe the grace of God and what it means for you.

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5. What do we profess at the time of our baptism and every time we celebrate Holy Communion? Why is it important that we make that profession?

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6. If someone were to ask you to explain the significance of Holy Baptism, how would you respond?

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7. Share with the group why you are thankful for your assembly of believers. How does your congregation help strengthen your faith? How does your small group help you grow in your love for each other?

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8. What is your response to the belief stated in the sixth Article of Faith?

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## References

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Romans 3:23  
CNAC 8.1

John 3:1-21  
Matthew 28:19

Romans 6:2-12  
Mark 10:14, 16

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## Sixth Article of Faith

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I believe that the Holy Baptism with water is the first step to a renewal of a human being in the Holy Spirit, and that the person baptized is adopted into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord.

## Session 3: The Creed: Holy Sealing

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1. Read Ephesians 1:11-14 as a group. Discuss the five gifts received at your sealing, how they are referenced in the verses from Ephesians, and what each one means to you:

a. **A Seal** – the assurance that we belong to God and He will always receive and accept us

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b. **A Guarantee** – the assurance that as long as we remain in an active, close relationship with God, He will provide all that we need to enter His kingdom, despite the weaknesses that exist in the visible church

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c. **A Promise** – the assurance that we will experience the resurrection of our body and enter the kingdom of God, which is the foundation of our hope for the future

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d. **A Pledge** – the assurance that we can already today receive part of our inheritance in experiencing a foretaste of the kingdom by going deeper into the knowledge of our Father in the divine word, feeling His presence in the sacraments, and growing in His unity in our fellowship

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e. **A Calling** – the task to praise and witness Jesus Christ to those around us and profess His gospel and His return. Further, this is the basis for spiritual gifts, which each receive in order to share with and edify the body of Christ.

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2. Discuss how you would finish the following sentence: As a child of God, I am...

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3. How is the presence of the Holy Spirit visible in the lives of people around you? How is it visible in your life?

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4. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to live the life that God created us for?

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5. What are the prerequisites for childhood in God, and how is this relationship defined?

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6. The video mentions that the Spirit awakens spiritual gifts in every believer to use in the building up of the church, as well as the community around them. How are you using the gifts God has given you to build up the church and your community?

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7. What is your response to the belief stated in the eighth Article of Faith?

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### Bible References

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Acts 8:14-17  
Acts 10:44-47  
Luke 3:16

Matthew 3:11  
Ephesians 1:11-14  
Acts 17:28-29

Romans 8:14-17  
Exodus 23:19  
Revelation 14:4-5

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### Eighth Article of Faith

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I believe that those baptized with water must, through an Apostle, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to attain the childhood in God and thereby the prerequisite for becoming a firstling.

Small Group Theme for June: The Creed